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Action

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FROM: OTTAWA

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 559, OCTOBER 25

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THERE FOLLOW SUMMARY STATEMENTS PRIMIN DIEFENBAKER AND OPPOSITION LEADERS MADE IN HOUSE COMMONS THIS AFTERNOON:

PRIMIN:

PRIMIN REFERRED TO KENNEDY STATEMENT THAT SOVIET INSTALLATIONS IN CUBA THREATEN HEMISPHERE AND CHALLENGE RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE. CANADIANS GENERALLY AGREE THESE WEAPONS "DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE MENACE TO CANADA," TO NATO AND ALL FREE WORLD. US INFORMED GOC OF SITUATION AND POLICY FEW HOURS BEFORE KENNEDY SPEECH. PRIMIN ASKED SUPPORT OF WHOLE HOUSE AND SAID CANADA INTENDS SUPPORT US AND OTHER ALLIES IN THIS SITUATION. MUST WEIGH DANGER BUT CANADIANS ALWAYS STAND BY ALLIES. CANADA WILL DO ALL POSSIBLE FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION. PRIMIN GAVE SUMMARY GOVT ACTIONS. ALL CANADIAN FORCES HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. CANADIAN NORAD FORCES ON SAME READINESS FOOTING AS US NORAD UNITS. DEFENSE OFFICIALS TO BRING UP TO DATE CONTINGENCY MEASURES. MINISTERS AND KEY AIDES TO REMAIN AVAILABLE. HOUSE KNOWS PLANS TO CARRY ON GOVT IF WORST HAPPENS.

THE TWO PRESSING NEEDS ARE AVOID CONFLICT AND FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION NEW SOVIET CHALLENGE. BEST HOPE LIES IN UN. U THANT'S PROPOSAL DESIGNED GAIN TIME URGENTLY NEEDED FIND SOLUTION. ARGUMENTS ON LEGALITY QUARANTINE LARGELY "STERILE AND IR-RELEVANT." "LEGALISTIC ARGUMENTS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, CANNOT ERASE FACT THAT SOVIET UNION HAS POSED NEW AND IMMEDIATE THREAT TO SECURITY NOT ONLY OF US BUT OF CANADA AS WELL." US FOREIGN BASES ONLY RESPONSE TO SOVIET THREATS AND INSTALLED

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OPENLY. WEST HAS NEVER UPSET WORLD BALANCE. CANADA HAS SHOWN RESTRAINT IN AVOIDING PROLIFERATION NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CUBA AND SOVIET SHOULD RESTORE STATUS QUO. DISMANTLING CUBA BASES WOULD BE PRACTICAL STEP TO DISARMAMENT IF COUPLED WITH SOME INSPECTION SYSTEM. (APPLAUSE BY NEARLY ALL MP'S FOLLOWED.)

PEARSON:

LIBERAL LEADER PEARSON WELCOMED PRIMIN'S INFORMING HOUSE ON GRAVE SITUATION. THREAT TO PEACE REMAINS UNTIL STEPS TAKEN TO CANCEL EXTENSION NUCLEAR BASES TO NEW COUNTRIES. EXTENSION HAS IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR CANADIAN DEFENSE POLICY. IMPOSSIBLE RELIEVE PRESENT TENSION UNTIL CUBA BASES REMOVED.

EVIDENCE POSITIVELY PROVES EXISTENCE OF BASES. CANADA CLOSEST NEIGHBOR AND FRIEND AND MUST SUPPORT US ACTION. CAN ALSO BE GRATEFUL UN WORKING TO SOLVE PROBLEM. WITH ALL ITS FAILURES UN STANDS BETWEEN HUMANITY AND DESTRUCTION.

PEARSON REPEATED STATEMENTS CONTAINED EMBTEL 550.

U THANT'S INTERVENTION WITH ASIAN-AFRICAN PROPOSAL IN SECURITY COUNCIL MAY PREVENT DETERIORATION. U THANT PROPOSAL WOULD STAND BETTER CHANCE SUCCESS IF "UN NAVAL INSPECTION FORCE" ESTABLISHED TO BE SURE SOVIET SHIPS WITHDRAWN.

THOMPSON:

SOCRED LEADER THOMPSON CONGRATULATED PRIMIN AND SAID UNDERSTANDING OBLIGATIONS TO NEIGHBORS IS NECESSITY FOR PEACE AND TO WITHSTAND COMMUNIST ONSLAUGHT. NO INTOLERANCE SO VICIOUS AS INTOLERANCE OF NEUTRALITY. CANADA SHOULD TAKE QUITE DETERMINED STAND IN PEACE QUEST.

THOMPSON FOUND EFFORTS OF UN ENCOURAGING AND ADDED CANADA HAS CHANCE TO WORK AMONG UNCOMMITTED NATIONS. OAS UNANIMITY GRATIFYING AND NOW IS IDEAL TIME FOR CANADA TO JOIN. CANADA

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BACKS US AS SOVEREIGN STATE NOT VASSAL. THOMPSON CONCLUDED IN STRUGGLE FOR PEACE CANADA MUST STAND WITH FRIENDS.

HERRIDGE:

NDP HOUSE LEADER HERRIDGE REPEATED STATEMENTS CONTAINED EMBTEL 555.

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